Size: 10,594 acres
Mission: Receive, store, distribute, maintain, and demilitarize conventional ammunition, explosives, and special weapons
HRS Score: 37.30; placed on NPL in August 1990
IAG Status: FFA signed in January 1993
Contaminants: Chlorinated solvents, radioactive isotopes, heavy metals, and petroleum hydrocarbons
Media Affected: Groundwater, surface water, sediment, and soil
Funding to Date: $48.9 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $88.3 million (FY2005)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for BRAC Sites: FY2002

Romulus, New York

Restoration Background

In July 1995, the BRAC Commission recommended closing Seneca Army Depot, except for an enclave that will store hazardous materials and ores. The installation is scheduled to close in FY00.

During its operation, the installation stored munitions and supplies and distributed them to the Army. Operations such as demilitarization and disposal of munitions and explosives contributed to contamination at the installation. Environmental studies since FY78 have identified the following site types: an open burning (OB) ground, an ash landfill, other landfills, low-level radioactive waste burial grounds, underground storage tanks (USTs), spill areas, fire training areas, and munitions disposal areas.

Under the Federal Facility Agreement in FY94, the Army completed a solid waste management classification study. The study identified 72 solid waste management units (SWMUs); 36 units required no further action or completion reports, 8 required Removal Actions, and 28 required Remedial Investigations and Feasibility Studies (RI/FSs). The 28 sites requiring RI/FSs were divided into 13 groups. The installation began RI/FSs for six groups in FY91, FY95, and FY96.

Interim Actions at the installation include removal of several USTs and associated contaminated soil. The installation completed a Removal Action at the ash landfill in FY95. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of soil was removed and treated by an innovative low-temperature thermal desorption technique that allowed return of the cleaned soil to the site.

In FY96, the installation completed RI/FSs for the first two groups of sites and drafted a Proposed Plan. RI/FS work plans began for the remaining groups. Fieldwork began for three of the groups.

The installation commander converted the installation's technical review committee to a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and established a BRAC cleanup team (BCT). The installation started an Environmental Baseline Survey (EBS) and submitted a draft CERFA report to the regulatory agencies for concurrence. On the basis of the EBS, the BCT completed its bottom-up review and developed a strategy for future cleanup actions. The community formed a local reuse authority and initiated a land reuse plan.

In FY97, the installation completed the EBS and began follow-up action at newly identified sites. The Army's peer review team performed a program review to streamline processes, provide technical advice, and recommend opportunities for cost savings and avoidance. The BCT initiated a peer review action plan for implementing the peer review recommendations, reprioritized schedules for reuse, and initiated a risk assessment protocol for sites for which there are limited data.

FY98 Restoration Progress

The installation completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for BRAC closure and began two RIs. It also changed an RI to an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis for a Removal Action and began two additional Removal Actions. Ground-penetrating radar and electromagnetic sensors were employed to conduct surveys at two Seneca sites with mixed results. The Army initiated a Treatibility Study for the reactive wall treatment of the trichloroethene plume, with construction scheduled for FY99. Remedial Designs for the ash landfill and the OB grounds also started. Peer review recommendations were implemented, delaying the completion of the Records of Decision (RODs) for five projects. A more liberal view of the units was discussed, which resulted in further negotiations with the agencies. This effort may produce significant savings for the Army in implementing the selected remedies. A follow-on peer review meeting on the operable units resulted in continued streamlining of the CERCLA program.

Nine new members joined the RAB, and seven members resigned. The new members received a tour of the installation. Training and information sessions are conducted monthly for all members. The Army, the Local Redevelopment Authority, and the state participated in partnering sessions that produced an EIS that satisfied state NEPA requirements for new projects for reuse.

Plan of Action

- Complete RODs for the ash landfill, the OB grounds, the fire training area, and deactivation furnaces in FY99
- Complete No Further Action decision documents for 45 SWMU sites and complete three findings of suitability to transfer in FY99
- Continue RI at two sites and begin two additional RIs in FY99
- Initiate a long-term monitoring effort for ROD sites in FY99
- Demonstrate success of innovative technology in FY99
- Implement peer review recommendations in FY99
- Obtain regulator concurrence in recommendation from EBS site investigations in FY99
- Close installation in FY00

Sites Achieving RIP or RC Per Fiscal Year